THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. During 1996 about 1549 foreign investment proposals were approved, which were higher than the proposals approved (1355) in the year 1995. This indicates growing interest of foreign investors towards India. To encourage foreign investment, the Government have taken a series of steps and some of which are, revamping of Foreign Investment Promotion Board, creation of Foreign investment Promotion Council, issuing of a set of guidelines for consideration of FDI proposals by FIPB and expansion of lists of industries for automatic approval etc.

FDIs in export oriented units

201. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved 142 proposals which involve foreign direct investment (FDIs) of nearly Rs. 2000 crore and projected export earnings of Rs. 5900 crores, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 31st January, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details of indicating the position State-wise and Union Territory-wise, project-wise including number of 100 per cent export oriented units likely to be set up during 1997-98 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing details is attached as Annexure. [*See Appendix 180, Annexure No. 5*] This includes 100% EOU approved cases as well.

Japanese assistance for setting up an Industrial Model Town

202. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked for assistance from Japan to set up an Industrial Model Town in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also received such proposals from other multinational companies and Non-Resident Indians; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Government of India has sought the assistance from Japan for setting up Industrial Model Town with quality infrastructure to attract large foreign investment.

(b) Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was entrusted with the work of conducting a detailed feasibility study for establishing an Industrial Model Town in India. Gurgaon, in Haryana State was found to be the most suitable site. The proposal for setting up an Industrial Model Town is under negotiation between the Government of Haryana and the consortium of Japanese companies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of these proposals are given as under:—

1. An Information Technology Park is being set up at Bangalore with equity participation of Tatas, Information Technology Park Investment Pte. Ltd. , Singapore and Government of Karnataka.

2. M/s. Unitech Limited, New Delhi, were granted foreign collaboration approval for setting up a joint venture . company for development of a Technology Park at Gurgaon with foreign equity participation of M/s. First Capital property Venture Pte. Ltd., Singapore, a consortium consisting of five companies of Singapore.

Revamping of sick PSUs

203. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a scheme to revamp the sick public

sector units in the heavy industry sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The strategies formulated for the Public Enterprises under the Department of Heavy Industry include:

(i) Permitting BHEL, which has potential to become a global giant, to access the investment fund out of the disinvestment proceeds, to enable it to offer internationally competitive financial and credit packages;

(ii) Formation of Joint Ventures for one or more of their units in order to enhance the competitiveness and viability of the enterprises by infusion of technology, modern management techniques and marketing strength; and

(iii) Creation of a revolving fund from out of 10% of the disinvestment proceeds for infusion of funds in accordance with approved rehabilitation schemes to facilitate quick implementation of trun-around plans.

Expenditure on advertisement by Coir Board

204. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the total money spent by Coir Board for advertisement alongwith the details of the method of giving advertisement?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Coir Board have reported that during the current year (upto 31-12-96) a total amount of Rs. 41,73,196.95 was spent on advertisement. The mode of advertisement is T.V. publicity, press publicity, spot publicity, hoardings, etc. The T.V. publicity is done mainly through the Doordarshan by telecasting the T.V. Commercial. The advertisements through press are released in prominent dailies in English, Hindi and vernacular local languages. The spot publicity is aimed at promotion of sales of coir products of individual showrooms. The hoardings are erected in commercial towns and cities.

Open sky policy

205. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of the "Open Skies Policy" formulated by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): No "Open Sky Policy" has been formulated by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

Back door privatisation of PSUs

206. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated a move to take out Public Sector Undertakings from the purview of the Companies Act of 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is being done under the garb of providing autonomy to PSUs, in an attempt to privatise them through the back door; and

(d) if so, details thereof along with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Revival plan for PSUs

207. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the master plan for reviving Public Sector Undertaking has been finalised; and